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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,505	11/26/2003	Dale G. Swan	SRM0006/US	8953
7590	05/21/2007		EXAMINER	
Paul L. Weaver Kagan Binder, PLLC Maple Island Building, Suite 200 221 Main Street North Stillwater, MN 55082			NAFF, DAVID M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1657	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,505	SWAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David M. Naff	1657	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11,13-21 and 28-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 32 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10,13-21 and 28-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

An amendment of 2/12/07 amended claims 1, 9, 13, 15-21, canceled claims 12 and 22-27, and added new claims 28-32.

Claims examined on the merits are 1-11, 13-21 and 28-32, which 5 are all claims in the application.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 10 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10, 13-21 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chudzik et al (7,094,418 B2).

Chudzik et al disclose a composition containing a cross-linkable macromer and an accelerator, which can be N-vinyl caprolactam (col 11, line 14). The N-vinyl caprolactam contains a carbonyl, which can be a biocompatible functional group. The composition of Chudzik et al is the same as presently claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-10, 13-21 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubbell et al (5,529,914) or Hubbell et al (6,258,870 B1).

5 Hubbell et al ('914) and ('870) disclose a method involving combining a macromer with a photoinitiator and a polymerization accelerator, and polymerizing the macromer. For example, see claims 1, 67 and 68 of Hubbell et al ('914) and claims 1, 30 and 31 of Hubbell et al ('870).

10 A composition as presently claimed would have been obvious from the method of Hubbell et al ('914) or ('870) since carrying out the method requires combining the macromer, photoinitiator and accelerator prior to polymerizing. Accelerators disclosed by Hubbell et al ('914) and ('870) inherently contain a biocompatible functional group as required by the claims. The conditions of dependent claims are inherent in conditions used by Hubbell et al, or are sufficiently similar to conditions used by Hubbell et al to be obvious from conditions disclosed by Hubbell et al. For example, acrylic acid contains a carboxylate as in claim 10, and accelerators disclosed by Hubbell et al are inherently capable of binding albumin as in claim 10. Accelerators are disclosed by Hubbell et al that contain N-vinyl as in claim 12, and N-vinyl-pyrolidinone disclosed by Hubbell et al contains a carbonyl as in claim 13, an N-vinyl amide as in claim 14, and a heterocyclic ring as in claim 15. Hubbell et al disclose 25 macromers that are polyamino acids, polysaccharides or proteins, and

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the macromers of claims 28-31 would have been obvious from the macromers disclosed by Hubbell et al.

Response to Arguments

The amendment urges that the claims now require the accelerator
5 to comprise an N-vinyl group. However, Hubbell et al disclose accelerators containing an N-vinyl group. For example, see claim 30 of Hubbell et al '870 where N-vinyl pyrrolidinone, 2-vinyl pyridine, 1-vinyl imidazole and 9-vinyl carbazole are disclosed. These accelerators inherently contain a compatible functional group. For
10 example, N-vinyl pyrrolidinone contains a carbonyl.

Conclusion

Claims 11 is allowable but is objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim. Claim 32 is allowed.

15 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Naff whose telephone number is 571-272-0920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful,
20 the examiner's supervisor, Jon Weber can be reached on 571-272-0925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for 5 unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer 10 Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



David M. Naff
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1657

DMN
15 5/14/07